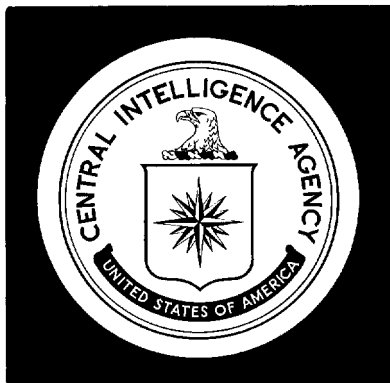


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WEST GERMANY: Government seeks Soviet help in obtaining ratification of Eastern treaties. [REDACTED]

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WEST GERMANY: THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT QUIETLY IS SEEKING SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO EASE THE CONTROVERSIAL EASTERN TREATIES THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION.

EGON BAHR, A CHIEF ARCHITECT OF OSTPOLITIK, SAID LAST WEEK THAT HE HAD TALKED RECENTLY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN ABOUT MAJOR CRITICISMS RAISED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN THE DOMESTIC DEBATE ON OSTPOLITIK. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] FALIN DID NOT GIVE HIM MUCH CAUSE TO HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN EAST GERMAN LIVING CONDITIONS AND TRAVEL PRIVILEGES OR THAT MOSCOW'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES WOULD MODERATE ENOUGH TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON RATIFICATION. BAHR, NEVERTHELESS, CONCLUDED THAT MOSCOW MIGHT PUBLICLY AND IN WRITING ACCEPT THE WEST GERMAN INTERPRETATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOVIET TREATY WHICH HOLDS THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE TREATY TO HINDER GERMAN REUNIFICATION. MOSCOW'S ACQUIESCENCE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE A BOON TO PRO-RATIFICATION FORCES.

MEANWHILE, FOREIGN MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY FRANK, APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF BAHR'S DEMARCHE, HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DISCUSS THE SAME ISSUES WITH FALIN. FRANK IS NOT DIRECTLY ASKING FOR SOVIET INTERVENTION, BUT HE WILL STRESS THAT PANKOW'S REFUSAL TO HOLD OUT ANY PROSPECT FOR BETTER INTER-GERMAN RELATIONS SERIOUSLY LESSENS CHANCES FOR RATIFICATION.

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BONN BELIEVES THAT EAST GERMAN CONCESSIONS IN THE INTER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS ON A GENERAL TRAFFIC AGREEMENT WOULD CREATE A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR RATIFICATION. BAHR IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IMMEDIATE PROGRESS WHEN THE TALKS, IN ABEYANCE SINCE EARLY FEBRUARY, RESUME ON 9 MARCH. [REDACTED]

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